

HOUSE BILL 1249

By Matlock

AN ACT to designate a bridge on U.S. Highway 321 in Loudon County as the "Gold Star - Blue Star Memorial Bridge".

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, Blue Star Mothers of America and American Gold Star Mothers were formed to provide support for mothers who had sons or daughters serving in the United States Armed Forces or who had lost sons or daughters in service to America, respectively; and

WHEREAS, living servicemen and servicewomen were represented by a blue star, and those who had lost their lives were represented by a gold star; and

WHEREAS, these two distinguished groups each hold a congressional charter under Title 36 of the United States Code; and

WHEREAS, these two groups have provided compassion and support to American mothers whose children bravely served this nation, with many of their sons and daughters making the ultimate sacrifice, and it is thus most appropriate that a certain bridge on U.S. Highway 321 should be named in their honor, in accordance with the request of the Loudon County Commission; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the bridge spanning Tellico Dam on U.S. Highway 321 in Loudon County is hereby designated the "Gold Star - Blue Star Memorial Bridge" in recognition and appreciation of American Gold Star Mothers and Blue Star Mothers of America.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "Gold Star - Blue Star Memorial Bridge".

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.